



20 N. Sixth Street • Lafayette, Indiana 47901

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Van Horn retiring after 20 years at city**

***Public reception, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday, August 30, City Hall Board of Works room***

Lafayette, Ind. – August 11, 2010 – After 20 years as one of four planner/project managers in Lafayette's Community Development and Redevelopment Department, Thomas G. Van Horn, Ph.D., is retiring at the end of this month. He has worked for three different city administrations.

A public reception in his honor will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday, August 30, in the Board of Works Room at City Hall, 20 N. Sixth St.

"I would call Tom Van Horn 'Mr. Downtown,'" said Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski. "He's made his mark through dedicated, continuous work to make our downtown shine. His tasks have often been behind the scenes and complex in details, yet critical to what the city has been able to do. He's the 'go-to-guy' when it comes to downtown facts and figures, besides all of his other economic development tasks."

Van Horn's long-term tenure has also been important to city operations, Roswarski said. "His knowledge of where we've been and what we've done over the last two decades has been a real resource, too."

Redevelopment Director Dennis Carson said Van Horn's contributions have been numerous. "Besides downtown, he's helped with annexations, tax-increment-financing districts, several neighborhood associations, and much more. He's also been a part of enhancing the city's Redevelopment and Community Development department as we've grown."

Van Horn says he's been a team player. "My role was usually in the background, helping to make things happen, being a part of a bunch of people working together to get something done."

(more)

City of Lafayette/Tom Van Horn  
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He also wrote and landed numerous grants for the city of Lafayette and helped secure riverfront liquor license opportunities locally. He's most proud of being able to assist the city in winning the All America City award in 1995 and Great American Main Street award in 1999.

"Over the years I've seen people work hard, work together, and accomplish amazing things," Van Horn said. "That's why this town is like it is and why we are well respected by others in the state."

Van Horn has also served as a board member for the Downtown Business Center, Tippecanoe Arts Federation and Friends of Downtown. He is a long-time member of the Soil & Water Conservation Society and is active in his church.

An Iowa native and 1968 graduate of Iowa's Luther College, Van Horn earned a master's in resource economics from The Pennsylvania State University in 1972. He came to Lafayette in 1978 to work on a doctorate in land use and soils, which he completed in 1985.

His previous work experience includes teaching high school science; working as an agricultural/ecological researcher; instructing college courses on soils, conservation and land use; and appraising real estate.

Tom is the father of a grown son and daughter. Outside work, he enjoys creating architectural drawings of houses, reading historical nonfiction and studying downtown Lafayette's past.

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